



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 21, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Extension of the Moratorium on Granting Preliminary Approval to Institutions for Initial Preparation of Teachers from August 1, 2012 through August 1, 2015

In August 2005 the State Board of Education (SBE) approved a moratorium on preliminary approval to institutions for initial preparation of teachers. In August 2008 the SBE approved an extension of the moratorium until July 30, 2011. The Office of Professional Preparation Services presented the request to extend the moratorium again on May 8, 2012.

The approval process, as approved by the SBE for institutions new to teacher preparation, consists of three steps:

- 1) Preliminary approval permits the institution to begin the development of a program.
- 2) Probationary approval permits the institution to recommend candidates for teacher certification.
- 3) Final approval indicates the institution has met all requirements, can operate independently, and will be subject to the same accountability and review process required of all other Michigan teacher preparation institutions.

The application form for new institutions, which includes information on the approval process, can be viewed at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/TPI\\_Standards, Requirements, & Procedures for Initial Approval 74807 7.PDF](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/TPI_Standards,_Requirements,_&_Procedures_for_Initial_Approval_74807_7.PDF)

Currently, five institutions are developing programs under conditions of preliminary or probationary approval granted by the SBE (Attachment A). The preliminary institution receives guidance from a state-approved institution serving as a mentor, which will recommend the institution's new candidates for teacher certification until the SBE grants probationary approval.

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The SBE has named a five-member Committee of Scholars (COS) to review proposed programs; visit the campus; interview candidates, faculty, others connected with the program; and make approval recommendations to the SBE. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) staff provides guidance to the institution and to the COS.

A recent review of teacher preparation candidates indicates Michigan institutions recommended 6,201 candidates for certification in 2010-2011. Approximately 1,862 or 30 percent, were employed by Michigan school districts or schools. Those new teachers who are not employed by Michigan schools either leave the state for teaching jobs elsewhere or seek other forms of employment. Given the decline in the employment of new teachers, current local district budget shortfalls, and proposed teacher layoffs throughout the state, the current supply of teachers appears to exceed the demand.

Michigan currently has 34 institutions preparing teachers: 15 public and 19 independent. The four or more years spent working with new institutions limits MDE staff focus on quality initiatives with currently approved institutions, including work on standards for specialty programs and the accreditation of current teacher preparation programs.

The SBE is asked to extend the moratorium on new requests for preliminary approval from August 1, 2012 through August 1, 2015. This will allow time for the MDE staff to assist institutions currently in preliminary or probationary approval as they continue the development of quality teacher preparation programs. An institution can appeal the moratorium if it identifies extenuating circumstances, or if its proposed programs were to address a special need or a shortage area in Michigan.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Moratorium on Granting Preliminary Approval to Institutions for Initial Preparation of Teachers from August 1, 2012 through August 1, 2015, as discussed in the Superintendent's Memorandum dated May 21, 2012.

<b>Institutions Operating Under Preliminary Approval May 2012</b>		
<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
College for Creative Studies (CCS)	Preliminary approval was granted by the SBE in May 2003. A COS was appointed by the SBE in August 2007. Currently preparing for and working with COS for probationary approval.	Hope College is mentoring CCS and recommends CCS candidates for certification until the SBE grants probationary approval.
Baker College	Probationary approval granted by the SBE in November 2011.	9 campuses.
Finlandia University	Probationary approval granted by the SBE in December 2009.	
Robert B. Miller College	Probationary approval was granted by the SBE in November 2009.	
Rochester College	Probationary approval was granted by the SBE in January 2006.	Currently in the process of preparing for final approval.